



PRESS RELEASE

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EAGLE SCOUT SENTENCED TO 37 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR STARTING A SMALL FOREST FIRE ON THE TONTO NATIONAL FOREST

PHOENIX, ARIZONA –The United States Attorneys Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on May 12, 2003 STUART JASON ORR, D.O.B. 4/8/81, was sentenced to 37 months in custody of the Bureau of Prisons by the Hon. Susan R. Bolton for starting a small forest fire on the Tonto National Forest.

The fire was started June 22, 2002 near the Girl Scout Camp in the Payson area at the same time that last summer's Rodeo-Chediski fire was burning. Orr, who is an eagle scout, was a counselor at the Camp Geronimo Boy Scout Camp which is also located in the area. Forest Service Special Agent John "Pancho" Smith stated that the fire was kept small due to the hyper-vigilance of residents in the area and the quick response of the Forest Service and the Whispering Pines Volunteer Fire Department. The heightened awareness in the area was due to the tinder dry forest conditions at the time and residents' prior experience with the Dude Fire which consumed 30,000 acres and killed 6 fire fighters June 25, 1990.

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Judge Bolton also ordered the Bureau of Prison to conduct an assessment and develop a treatment program for fire starting while Orr is incarcerated.

The investigation in this case was conducted by United States Forest Service.

The prosecution was handled by Roger Dokken, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-739-PHX-SRB
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